

# BELIEVES SLAYING DUE TO MISTAKE

## Rector's Widow Has No Suspicion Of Murderers

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tween Dr. Hall and the beautiful choir singer, who was being financially helped out of Mrs. Hall's family treasury.

It may be surprising for the public to learn that even to this day Mrs. Hall had an undying faith in her husband's loyalty up to the time of his death. She does not believe, and will not believe, that he was untrue to her. This belief that her husband died a cruel death due to the mistake of a revengeful person she will not shake off.

Many will wonder how it is that Mrs. Hall has been able to undergo her recent ordeal of arrest with such poise and admirable fortitude, even telling her brother, Willie Stevens, calmly when she was arrested at midnight last Wednesday:—

"I will be back, Willie!"

She has told her friends that her complete innocence and her spiritual faith have given her almost supernatural strength. If at times she becomes weary she will pray, and she says that her faith draws to her Divine guidance and also strengthens her confidence in the future.

Mrs. Hall has absolutely no suspicion in her mind as to the identity of the murderer or murderers of her husband and Mrs. Mills. She has told her friends that the crime is as much of a mystery to her as it was when the bodies of her husband and his paramour were discovered thirty-six hours after they had been done to death four years ago.

For the first time since the murder, on September 14, 1922, Mrs. Hall has begun to read the newspaper accounts of the crime and the investigation. She reads with wonder and scorn the references which are made to her husband's unfaithfulness. Her belief in him cannot be shaken. When her close friends tell her that Dr. Hall was the author of the sentimental and passionate letters to Mrs. Mills and that he could not have been faith-

ful under the circumstances, all that Mrs. Hall will say in reply is:—

"I know Dr. Hall loved me and was true to me. If he were alive he could explain this. As he is dead, I will not desecrate his memory with such thoughts."

### Calm in Face of Ordeal

The strain of her arrest at midnight last week has told on her. Beneath the poise and the sublime courage of this woman her friends have noticed recently that the traces of her silent suffering are slowly creeping to the surface. Since her arrest and her prompt release on nominal bail Mrs. Hall has slept fitfully. For the first time since the murder her physical stamina has been taxed beyond its capacity.

Since her return to her home she has been under the care of a physician, principally because she could not sleep. She does not complain and she has been the calmest and coolest person in her household. She says that her arrest was probably the greatest surprise she had ever experienced in her life and that her poise did not leave her because she is innocent.

At times she shows mild amusement over the stories that her reticence is due to the fact that she is protecting a near relative. She not only will maintain her complete innocence of the crime, but will swear that she knows nothing whatever about any connection which any one may have had with the crime.

Here is her story of her own movements on the night Dr. Hall left her home for the last time, when he informed her that he was going to the home of Mrs. Mills to defray some of the expenses of the Mills household:—

She read for some hours and went to her bedroom before midnight. She knew that her husband had not returned and that the hour was growing late. While conscious of this fact, she tried to sleep, although she was not alarmed at that time. Some three hours later she was aroused by a sense of uneasiness. It was then almost 2.30 in the morning. Dr. Hall had not returned, and Mrs. Hall, now visibly concerned, aroused her brother, Willie Stevens, and they left the house in search of Dr. Hall.

Her first thought was that her husband had returned to the

church after visiting the Mills home and that he had fallen asleep in the church. The clergyman's wife and her sister made a fruitless search. Dr. Hall was not at the church. A pilgrimage was made around the vicinity, with no results, and Mrs. Hall and her brother returned home.

At no time during this search on that night, Mrs. Hall asserts, did she or her brother go to any point near the Phillips farm, where the murders were committed. She treats as preposterous the story that she can be identified as the woman who was heard weeping over Dr. Hall's body. Wherever she was on this night her brother, Willie Stevens, was with her.

He is her staunchest alibi and the case, so far, rests between her word

and that of Jane Gibson, the so-called pig woman, the adept with a rifle and pig-sticker, the midnight stalker who rode the dark fields on a donkey and who wore moccasins which left no footprints.

Her relatives and those who have known Mrs. Hall for many years are amazed that anyone should believe that she could fire a revolver. Her whole life has been blameless and her sole interest has been that of spiritual welfare for herself and those around her.

Another installment of Mrs. Hall's side of this amazing case will be printed tomorrow in The GRAPHIC. It will include the part Willie Stevens has played and will play in the case, and will also reveal the reason why Mrs. Hall married the clergyman.

## Simpson Would Jail Officials

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prosecutor in the case, when he announced that a movement was under way to subpoena certain public officials in the case who, he said frankly, knew more than they had told.

A score of the most skilled detectives in New Jersey, headed by Patrick Hayes, former Hoboken police chief and now chief of detectives in the office of John Milton of Hudson county; Sergt. Richard Burke, heading a group of Jersey City sleuths, co-operated with state troopers under the guidance of their acting commander.

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